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FIRST ANNUAL PRICE LIST  
OF THE  
**Highlands Nursery,**

*Highlands, Macon County, North Carolina.*

**H. P. KELSEY, Proprietor.**

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*Fall & Spring - 1885 & 1886*

## HIGHLANDS NURSERY

The Nursery is located at the village of Highlands, near the summit of the Blue Ridge, in latitude 35: altitude 3,500 feet. This location insures long cool summers and mild winters, which are peculiarly favorable to a large class of plants that are rare and difficult to obtain elsewhere.

It is generally admitted by our best botanists that no other part of the world is so rich in the varied forms of ornamental trees, shrubs and plants as these southern mountain regions. The native growths comprise almost the entire list to be found from Maine to Alabama, and some that are not found elsewhere.

Prof. W. A. Stiles, writing of the Highland section to the *New York Tribune*, says: "The richness of the forest in arborescent species is fairly matched by the varied forms of shrubs and smaller trees, for it is a fact that no part of the world has furnished the gardens of Europe and America with so many ornamental plants of this kind as this same Alleghany region, and nowhere else they appear in such a revel of luxuriance as under these mild, moist skies, and in this fruitful soil."

Along the course of every rocky stream up to an altitude of 4,000 feet, are masses of the greater rhododendron and kalmia, while on the borders of the impervious thickets they form a smaller broad-leaved evergreen under shrubs of rarest beauty.

The most beautiful of flowering shrubs are the azaleas, and four of the five species which belong to the flora of the continent are here massed together in impervious profusion and luxuriance. More common than the prince flower of the Northern wood borders is the great flame-colored azalea, whose bloom has added vigor and vividness to the hybrids which are the most striking ornaments of the parks and gardens of the old and new worlds.

These are named as the most conspicuous of the flowering shrubs, but there are others, like the rhododendron Vaseyi, discovered some five years ago, besides a

dozen other genera that could be named, each with a special charm of its own. To these add the species that are small lawn trees in the North, but attain the stature of timber trees here, and we have a group that for meanness of habit and beauty of foliage, flowers and fruit, and brilliancy of autumn coloring, has no rival in the flora of the world."

In undertaking the propagation and sale of the native growths of this Southern mountain region, we are engaging in a work that has heretofore been greatly neglected. While the whole earth outside the United States has been explored to obtain the choicest trees and plants for beautifying our American parks, lawns and gardens, and while these foreign growths are common, yet the more beautiful American plants are rarely seen in cultivation, and are almost unknown to Americans.

By care and devotion to our work we hope to receive a liberal patronage, and by furnishing the means for making the home surroundings more beautiful and attractive, we trust we may add to the happiness of others.

Prices named in this list are for good plants properly packed and sent by mail, unless otherwise noted.

The utmost care will be taken to have every plant true to name and in good order. And any mistake or error on our part will be cheerfully corrected.

Money may be sent at our risk in bank draft, post office money order or registered letter.

Name, post office address, and directions for marking packages should be written out full and plain. Always give your address in every letter.

Letters of inquiry promptly answered.

Ordinarily we can safely handle and ship plants from 1st of March to 1st of May, and for the South during mild spells in winter.

Another year we expect to have a much larger and more varied stock.

For the spring of 1886 we offer the following:

## PRICE LIST.

### ✓ *Acer Pennsylvanicum.*

Moose or Striped Maple—small ornamental tree, sometimes 30 to 40 feet high in this section. Each, 30c. 4 for \$1.

### ✓ *Azalea Calendulacea.*

Great flame-colored Azalea, shrub 6ft. to 12ft. high, producing in May or June a profusion of large flame-colored or orange blossoms. Native of the middle and southern States, hardy throughout the North. Showiest of all the azaleas. Each 40c. 3 for \$1.

### ✓ *Azalea Nudiflora.*

Pinxter flower. Wild honeysuckle, shrub 20 to 30 feet high, flowers appearing before the leaves, showy and fragrant. Each, 35c. 4 for \$1.

### ✓ *Calycanthus.*

Carolina Allspice—sweet shrub, bark, foliage and flowers, fragrant. Each, 30c. 5 for \$1.

### ✓ *Chionanthus Virginica.*

Fringe tree—shrub or small tree, sometimes 20 ft. high, producing masses of delicate white fringe-like flowers. Each, 40c. 3 for \$1.

### ✓ *Clethra Acuminata.*

Shrub 12 to 15 feet high, long spikes of white, fragrant flowers in July or August. Each 40c. 3 for \$1.

### ✓ *Cornus Florida.*

Flowering dogwood—small tree, attaining a height of 20 to 30 feet: white, showy flowers in spring, and bright, scarlet fruit in autumn. Each, 30c. 4 for \$1.

### ✓ *Ilex Monticola.*

Deciduous Mountain Holly—shrub, 15 to 20 or 25 feet. Each, 30c. 5 for \$1.

### ✓ *Kalmia Angustifolia.*

Sheep laurel—1 to 2 ft. high, small red or pink flowers in June or July. Each, 30c. 5 for \$1.

### ✓ *Kalmia Latifolia.*

Mountain laurel—Calico bush—shrub 25 to 30 ft. high, flowers light blush to bright red, very showy. Each, 40c. 4 for \$1.

### ✓ *Leucothoe Gatesbaei.*

Evergreen shrub 2 to 4 ft. high, producing long racemes of white flowers, May and June. Each, 25c. 6 for \$1.

### ✓ *Pyrus Americana.*

Mountain ash. Each 30c. 5 for \$1.

### ✓ *Rhododendron Maximum.*

Rose bay—Great laurel—A magnificent shrub or small tree, often 30 to 40 ft. high in the Southern mountains, blooms in July, white or shaded with pink. Each, 40c. 3 for \$1.

### ✓ *Rhododendron Punctatum.*

Pretty ornamental species, pink or red flowers in July. Each 40c.

### ✓ *Rhododendron Vaseyi.*

New, discovered by George Vasey in June 1878. Deciduous shrub, 8 to 15 ft. high. The growth and foliage closely resembles the flame-colored azalea; flowers abundant, bright rose to purple pink, appearing with or before the leaves. A truly magnificent plant, and valuable addition to our American flora. It is easily transplanted, and thrives well in cultivation. Each, \$1. 3 for \$2.50.

### ✓ *Stuartia Pentagyna.*

A rare and beautiful shrub, 15 to 25 ft. with large white or cream colored flowers resembling the camellia. Each, 60c. 2, \$1.

### ✓ *Tsuga Caroliniana.*

Carolina Hemlock—small tree, 30 to 50 feet, found only in the Southern mountains at 2,000 to 5,000 feet elevation: foliage heavier and darker than the common hemlock; leaves larger, with wide spreading scales. Difficult to transplant, but makes a beautiful tree in cultivation; should have shade and mulching the first season. Good, strong plants, 4 to 6 inches, 75c. each. 3 for \$2.

¶ We offer the following, carefully packed and shipped by express:—

For \$5—1 *Rhododendron Vaseyi*, 2 *Rhododendron maximum*, 2 *Rhododendron punctatum*, 2 *Azalea calendulacea*, 2 *Stuartia*, 2 *Kalmia latifolia*, 2 *Kalmia angustifolia*, 1 *Carolina hemlock*.

For \$10—2 *Rhododendron Vaseyi*, 2 *Rhododendron maximum*, 2 *Rhododendron punctatum*, 2 *Azalea calendulacea*, 2 *Azalea nudiflora*, 2 *Azalea viscosa*, 2 *Chionanthus*, 2 *Cornus Florida*, 2 *Clethra acuminata*, 2 *Ilex Monticola*, 2 *Acer Pennsylvanicum*, 2 *Kalmia angustifolia*, 2 *Kalmia latifolia*, 2 *Leucothoe*, 2 *Stuartia*, 2 *Carolina hemlock*.

Small plants of *Rhododendron maximum*, *Kalmia latifolia*, *Kalmia angustifolia*, *Leucothoe* or *Ilex Monticola*, per 100, \$2. *Calycanthus*, per 100, \$3.

## RHODODENDRON VASEYI.

### RHODODENDRON VASEYI.

The following description of this new and beautiful shrub was furnished by Capt. John Donnell Smith, of Baltimore :

*Rhododendron* (*Azalea*) *Vaseyi*, Gray, Proc. AMER. ACAD. vol. XV. p. 48 ; BOTANICAL GAZ. vol. VIII. p. 282.

Shrub, 8ft.-15 ft. high ; branches glabrous ; bud-scales imbricated ; leaves membranaceous, sparingly pubescent—hairy or smooth, from obovate-oblong to oblong-lanceolate, acute or acuminate at both ends, 3 in.-6 in. long ; pedicels slender, glandular, recurved after flowering ; calyx very short, truncate ; corolla roseate, glabrous within and without, rotate, campanulate, irregularly and bilabiate 5-parted or nearly so, with the lateral sinuses deeper, and those of the obovate divisions more connected than the other two, upper lobes more or less spotted inside towards base ; stamens 7, occasionally only 5, three-fourths of them larger and with stouter filaments ; style with the stamens a little exceeding the corolla ; ovary beset with stipitate viscid glands. Blossoming precocious rather than coetaneous with the leafing.

Collected first by Mr. George Vasey June, 1878, seven miles south-west from Webster, Jackson County, N. C. ; subsequently by Mr. S. T. Kelsey and Capt. John Donnell Smith along spring drains and ravines, Chimney Top Gap between Cashiers and Fairfield Valleys, Jackson Co., N. C.

This is a most interesting species, remarks Dr. Gray, as adding to our Flora a representative of that group of East Asiatic species of the true *Azalea* sub-genus, with campanulate or rotate-campanulate corollas, and very deciduous *perulæ* to the separate flower-buds. It contributes another to the now very numerous cases of remarkable relationship between the Chino-Japanese and the Alleghanian floras.

A scientific gentleman writes for the Philadelphia Press of Oct. 7, 1885 : " I recently rode through the mountains of Western North Carolina. \* \* So many

of the finest trees and shrubs in cultivation attain their best development in this region, that it may be worth while to note the appearance of some of them at home. Except, perhaps, on the high slopes of the Himalayas, or the mountains of Java, the various species of *rhododendron* nowhere are found in such profusion and luxuriance. \* \*

" But beyond question, the most beautiful of all flowering shrubs are the azaleas, and four of the five species found on this continent are here massed together in the greatest profusion and luxuriance. The flame-colored azalea—*A. calendulacea*—is the most showy. Here it often attains a height of twelve feet and covers hundreds of acres. It is the blood of this species which gives vigor and color to the hybrid Ghent azaleas. *Azalea arborescens*, which has but recently been introduced into cultivation, is a white flowered and late blooming species, which here lines all the water courses—a stately shrub fifteen or twenty feet high. *A. viscosa* and *A. nudiflora*, the white and pink species not uncommon in Northern woods and swamps, here mingle with the other species in an abundance and vigor unknown in other parts of the country.

\* \* The latest addition to American flowering shrubs is *Rhododendron Vaseyi* which remained undetected until four or five years ago, when Mr. Vasey found it in Jackson county, near Webster, N. C. It was also discovered about the same time in Cashiers Valley. The discovery was particularly interesting, as it belongs to a section of the genus almost exclusively Asiatic, entirely unrepresented in our Atlantic flora, and with its nearest American relative confined to the highest peaks of the Cascade and Northern Rocky Mountains. It is a tall shrub—twelve to fifteen feet high—with bright, purple-pink scentless flowers, and unlike our other *rhododendrons*, with deciduous leaves. It is easily transplanted, adapts itself readily to cultivation, and promises to become an important addition to our garden flora. An interesting experiment in hybridization might be made in crossing this plant with some of the azaleas"—SENEX.